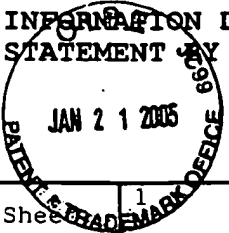


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	Filing Date		September 11, 2000
	First Named Inventor		Takao TABATA et al
	Group Art Unit		3626
	Examiner Name		Carolyn M. BLECK
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number		00646/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

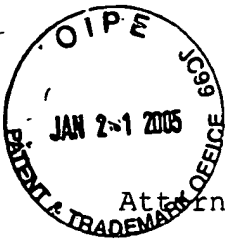
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CB		JP	10-003452			01-06-1998		
CB		JP	10-161864			06-19-1998		
CB		JP	10-314149			12-02-1998		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	2/24/05
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: January 21, 2005



1-24-05

AF/3626
JFW

Attorney Docket No. 00646/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Takao TABATA et al
Serial No. : 09/659,771
Filed : September 11, 2000
For : MEDICAL APPARATUS LEASE
SYSTEM FOR WHICH FEES ARE
PAID DEPENDING ON USAGE
STATUS AND MEDICAL APPARATUS
COMPATIBLE THEREWITH
Art Unit : 3626
Examiner : Carolyn M. BLECK

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Submitted herewith are the following:

- Considered (1) Copy of a Japanese Office Action (and English
CB translation thereof) issued in the counterpart Japanese
application;
↓ CB (2) Copies of the cited publications (except for JP 10-
222568); and
(3) ~~Form PTO/SB/08A.~~

An English translation of said Japanese Office Action is
provided, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise
explanation of relevance for any non-English language
publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 10-222568
was submitted to the USPTO with the Information Disclosure

 2/24/05